



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Denise Juneau
Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2009

TO: Montana Educators

FROM: Linda Vrooman Peterson
Professional Education

SUBJECT: Call for Nominations for Praxis II Tests Standard Setting Studies

We at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are assembling panels of secondary and postsecondary teachers from across the state to participate in standard setting studies. The standard setting studies will take place June 23–26, 2009, in Helena. The location will be determined soon.

The purpose of these studies is to recommend a passing score on Praxis Series™ tests to meet the federal Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Montana teachers and teacher candidates who teach a core academic subject class with only a minor are required to take the Praxis II test in their minor subject area. This requirement is consistent with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as Reauthorized by the NCLB Act. During this phase, Montana will establish passing scores for these core academic subject areas: English, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and physical science), civics and government, economics, history, and geography.

The OPI is asking that you nominate teachers for the subject tests being reviewed (see below). Because we are trying to gather a cross-section of school districts and postsecondary institutions, as well as diverse groups of teachers, not all nominees may be selected to participate. The tests that will be reviewed and the review date for each study are:

- **Tuesday, June 23, 2009:** English, Mathematics, Economics
- **Wednesday, June 24, 2009:** Biology, Earth Science, Geography
- **Thursday, June 25, 2009:** Chemistry, Physics, Government/Political Science
- **Friday, June 26, 2009:** Physical Science, World & US History

Our goal is to assemble a panel of 12 to 15 educators for each subject area. Included are secondary teachers and a small number of postsecondary faculty who prepare teachers in the relevant content areas. In particular, we are looking for:

- teachers who are fully licensed in the content areas being reviewed, and who are currently teaching those content areas;

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

Call for Nominations for Praxis II Tests Standard Setting Studies

March 31, 2009

Page Two

- teachers with between three and 10 years of experience; but more experienced teachers are welcome, if they are actively involved in mentoring or supervising a beginning teacher or a student teacher in the content areas;
- teachers who represent the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the students they teach;
- teachers who represent geographic regions and school size; and
- postsecondary faculty who teach core academic subject classes to teacher candidates.

Please do consider nominating teachers who meet the above criteria. This is a very important process and an excellent professional learning opportunity for Montana educators.

The ETS will facilitate the study on Montana's behalf. The ETS will reimburse panelists, at state rates, for travel, per diem, and lodging, when necessary; breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The OPI renewal units will be offered for this activity.

Once you have made your selections, the nominees can directly access the ETS link and complete the online form with their information. The information is then imported directly into the ETS standard setting study database. The link to the ETS registration Web site is <http://ntis12.ets.org/onyx/standardsetting.htm>.

The online registration form is generic for any panel except for **Questions 3 and 4**. Question 3 asks for the General Area in which the nominee has been selected; this question needs to be selected first. This selection will determine the options available for Question 4. Question 4 is for the Subject Area in which the nominee has been selected.

When registering online, the nominees will select from the following the options:

Biology: CK (0235):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Biology**" option

Chemistry: CK (0245):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Chemistry**" option

Earth & Space Science: CK (0571):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Earth/Space Sciences**" option

Economics (0910):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Economics**" option

English Language, Literature and Composition: CK (0041):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**English**" option

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

Call for Nominations for Praxis II Tests Standard Setting Studies
March 31, 2009
Page Three

Geography (0920):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Geography**" option

Government/Political Science (0930):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Gov/Political Sci**" option

Mathematics: CK (0061):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Mathematics**" option

Physical Science: CK (0481):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Physical Sci**" option

Physics: CK (0265):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**Physics**" option

World and US History: CK (0941):

Question 3: select "**Content**" option

Question 4: select "**World and US History**" option

If you have questions or need more information, contact me by e-mail lypeterson@mt.gov or contact Donna Waters by telephone (406) 444-3114 or by e-mail dwaters@mt.gov.